

Many small mining settlements sprung up along the area's streams and became the foundation of today's historic towns.

Resting firmly in the middle of two different jurisdictions, the communities of Amador were divided between Calaveras County and El Dorado County. Citizens became dissatisfied with the lack of a true identity, and organized a community to be separate and independent from both counties. Thus, just four short years after California officially became a state, electors voted to form the County of Amador.

The County has grown to include over 18 cities and communities, yet still maintains its small-town atmosphere. Boasting of areas known as California's Hidden Nugget and The Heart of the Mother Lode, Amador County has been diligent to preserve the past, enrich the present and build towards the future.

I am honored to commemorate this epic year in the history of the County. This Sesquicentennial Anniversary marks 150 years of pioneering a quality environment for generations of citizens. Please join me in celebrating the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Amador County.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and mourn the passing of one of the greatest Presidents in American history—Ronald Wilson Reagan. This leader was a man of clear vision, principle and conviction, a great communicator, and an individual who had perhaps one of the greatest influences on my life.

An eternal optimist with a can-do spirit, President Reagan once said in my hometown of San Diego: "You know, the United States was never meant to be a second-best nation. We set our sights on the stars, and we're going for the gold."

He also believed that this forward-looking superpower Nation could transform the global picture.

He came to the job armed with one underlying philosophy: Freedom. Freedom for the economy, for individuals, our Nation, and people around the globe.

Ronald Reagan brought our economy back to life. It was his policies that ultimately put Congress on a course to the fiscal discipline that spurred a balanced budget and economic growth.

President Reagan followed through on his pledge to restore our military, and he brought back the pride associated with serving this Nation.

Despite the rhetoric and good intentions of those on the other side of the political spectrum, it was Ronald Reagan who actually initiated the disarmament of whole classes of nuclear weapons. Perhaps his greatest legacy will be that of bringing an end to the cold war. Staring down repressive governments and challenging them to a new way of life, he brought freedom to millions of people around the globe.

Using old Navy terms to describe his first term, President Reagan once said, "We've

taken control of the ship of state and changed direction. And what are we going to do now? Well the way I see it, it's all ahead full, no turning back."

For his imprint on history, for his legacy which will be felt for generations to come, this Nation owes President Reagan a debt of gratitude.

I am pleased that one of the President's many legacies is the Navy's newest nuclear carrier, the USS *Ronald Reagan*. That ship recently set sail from Norfolk for its rightful home in San Diego.

Throughout his political career, President Reagan always concluded his campaign in San Diego. He called it his "lucky City." It is only fitting that our shining city on the hill, San Diego, will be called home to the USS *Reagan*. This ship is perhaps the most fitting tribute to Ronald Reagan's legacy of strength and security, to the imprint he had on our past and the promise that we hold for the future.

We anxiously await the arrival of the *Reagan*, and welcoming it to the lucky city. The way I see it, it's all ahead full, no turning back.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FERNANDO OAXACA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great admiration and pride to honor a very special man, Fernando Oaxaca, former businessman, government official, political activist and founding director of HispanicVista.com.

Fernando Oaxaca passed away on Friday, May 28, 2004, after making invaluable contributions to the Latino community and realizing a long list of accomplishments. He earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1950 at the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy presently known as the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP). His work in the aerospace industry paved the way for other Latinos to have opportunities in the aerospace industry in the 1960s.

Fernando Oaxaca was a pioneer in broadcasting and co-founder of Coronado Communications, one of the first public relations firms in California to specialize in the Latino market. In 1967, he became one of the original founding members of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly.

Throughout his career, Fernando Oaxaca has served as a consultant and advisor to many organizations. His passion and strong convictions led him to become the Chairman of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF). His weekly column "Oaxaca Journal," published in HispanicVista.com inspired many and conveyed the values and principles of our country and its democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the late Fernando Oaxaca, for his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of the Latino community.

BACK TO WORK INCENTIVE ACT
OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to today's ill-conceived bill.

Today, we should be creating jobs to replace the more than 2 million that have been lost the last three years. 38,000 private sector jobs and 43,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Minnesota alone since January 2001. This bill does nothing to replace them.

We should be investing in our Nation's existing workforce training infrastructure. Last year, the Dakota County Workforce Council in my district helped over 1,000 dislocated workers and their resource rooms served nearly 40,000 individuals. Even more people could have received job training assistance with adequate funding for our One-Stops.

Instead, the Republican leadership's bill gives unemployed workers a voucher—up to \$3,000—instead of the job training they need and deserve.

This bill ignores the real problems facing our working families.

I have heard from Minnesota's workforce professionals who are worried that without new money, job training funds will be diverted under this plan, reducing funding for proven, successful job training programs offered by workforce training centers in my district.

Congress needs to help the unemployed now, not start new, unproven programs.

We should be extending unemployment benefits for the 1.5 million workers who have exhausted their current benefits, including over 26,000 Minnesotans who lost their benefits because Congress failed to act in December.

Workers in my district aren't asking for new employment vouchers. They are asking for jobs.

We are passing a bill that creates no new jobs while limiting worker access to existing training services. These vouchers undermine benefits for the long-term unemployed who can already access job training services.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.

MOURN THE LOSS, RECOGNIZE
THE SACRIFICE, AND ULTIMATELY,
CELEBRATE THE LIVES
OF THREE AMERICAN HEROES

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss, recognize the sacrifice, and ultimately, celebrate the lives of three American heroes.

These three men, Lt. Erik McCrae, Sergeant Justin Eyerly, and Specialist Justin Linden, were ours. To Oregonians, they were—they remain—a part of us.

They chose to answer the call of their nation. Each of them understood the sacred duty of military service—they knew the special bond formed by soldiers under arms—and they died fulfilling that duty with honor.